

## CLAIMS

What the invention claims is:

1. A computer-implemented method for facilitating placement of health care order entry, comprising:
  - receiving input indicative of a desired order having terms therein;
  - normalizing the terms of the received input;
  - finding possible drug matches for the normalized terms, and
  - calculating a rough score for possible order matches;
  - refining the rough score with a rough score adjustment; and
  - ranking the found possible order matches from the most-likely to match the desired order to the least-likely based upon the refined rough score.
2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the normalizing comprises:
  - replacing any abbreviations with known terms corresponding to the respective abbreviations; and
  - eliminating any terms that are numbers.
3. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein refining includes adding known synonyms to the terms in the possible drug matches and matching full sentence orders to the possible order matches.

4. The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein refining further includes normalizing the full sentence orders, adjusting for exact matches and adjusting for unit matches.

5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the found possible order matches in the ranked order.

6. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the rough score calculation includes determining a match distance and ranking the match based on the distance.

7. The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein the distance is defined as the number of changes needed in the possible drug matches to obtain an exact match to the terms of the received input.

8. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein normalizing includes setting an anti-flag for any found, pre-determined anti-terms, and wherein the rough score calculation includes removing any terms for which the anti-flag is set.

9. A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method as recited in claim 1.

10. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for executing the method of claim 1.

11. A computer-implemented method for normalizing an input string indicative of a health care order, the normalizing to facilitate searching for possible intended health care order sentences, comprising:

receiving the input string having terms therein; and

replacing any abbreviations with known terms corresponding to the respective abbreviations.

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, further comprising determining if any of the terms end in a number string, and if so, determining if only one letter is present before the number, and if so, maintaining the letter-number string, and if not, separating the letter string from the number string.

13. The computer-implemented method of claim 12, further comprising separating any number string at the beginning of any term.

14. The computer-implemented method of claim 13, further comprising removing any periods present in terms that are not located before a number.

15. The computer-implemented method of claim 14, further comprising removing any hyphens present in any term if the term is less than four characters long.

16. The computer-implemented method of claim 15, further comprising setting an anti-flag for any found, pre-determined anti-terms.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, further comprising removing any terms containing only numbers.

18. A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method as recited in claim 11.

19. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for executing the method of claim 11.